

his steadfast service to the Kalamazoo community.

# RECOGNIZING THE FEDERATION OF HELLENIC AMERICAN EDUCATORS AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

## HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 5, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today to recognize The Federation of Hellenic American Educators and Cultural Associations who today held a wonderful and historic event in the Capitol entitled, "The Dynamics of the Hellenic Language." Attendees included His Excellency Ambassador Alexandros Mallias; Carolos Gadis, Minister-Deputy Chief of Mission; Stella Kokolis, President, SAE USE Region Educational Committee; Christos Polymeropoulos; Vassilis Polymeropoulos; Maria Gadis; and students from the Greek School of Plato in Brooklyn instructed by Eleftheria Ikouta and Despina Hotzoglou.

I want to acknowledge the honorees receiving the "Capitol 2008 Awards for Promoting Hellenic Language and Culture":

The Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ (D-NJ), The Honorable OLYMPIA SNOWE (R-ME), Dr. Anagnostis Agelarakis, Professor and Director of Environmental Studies, Angela Kalmoukos, Teacher, Lowell, Massachusetts, George Pumakis, founder of "Athenian Academy", Charter School Dr. James E. Alatis, Dean Emeritus, School of Languages and Linguistics, Theodore Spyropoulos, S.A.E. U.S.A. Coordinator, Anna Efstathiou Tziropoulou, Author-Professor of Historical Greek Literature, Alpine University, Zurich, Maria Makedon, Director, First Archdiocesan District, Department of Education, Antonis Diamataris, Publisher, "National Herald", and Dimitris Kastanas, President & Producer, NGTV.

Professor John Antonopoulos, University of Staten Island, Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis, Ph.D., President, Hellenic Educators Association, NJ, Nina Gatzoulis, Professor of Modern Greek, University of New Hampshire, Helene Georgopoulou, Teacher, Peirakon School, Chicago, Eleftheria Ikouta, Principal, Plato School, Brooklyn, Athena Krommydas, Principal, The William Spyropoulos Day School, Flushing, Dr. George Kafkoulis, Chairman, Co-Founder & President of the Archimedean Academy, Timoleon Kokkinos, St. Demetrius Astoria, Principal (Afternoon School), and Dr. John Kotsaridis, Director, Education Department, Stavropegial Monastery.

Dr. George Melikokis, Principal, St. Demetrios School, Jamaica, Dr. Aristotle Michopoulos, Director of Greek Studies, Hellenic College, Marina Moustakas, Founding President, Hellenic Heritage Institute, Dr. Peter Nanopoulos, Director of Greek Education and Culture, Metropolis of San Francisco, Nikos Nikolidakis, Consul for Educational Affairs in USA, Dimitri S. Pallas (MD), Anna Stavroula Panas, St. Basil's Academy Teachers College Alumnae Association, Elias Pantelides, Direc-

tor of Academy of Aristotle, St. George, Media, PA, Eleftherios Peroulas, Founder of Socrates Academy, NC, and Helen Petropoulou, St. George, Maryland.

Sophia Tsagalis, St. Catherine School, Virginia, Catherine Tsounis, Adjunct Professor, St. John's University, Dr. Peter Yiannos, President, Tri-State American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture (AFGLC), Wilmington, DE Philadelphia Association, Dimitris Fillos, Reporter, Cosmos FM, Dimitris Georgakopoulos, Publisher, Hellenic Voice, Theodore Kalmoukos, Reporter, National Herald, Stavros Marmarinos, Reporter, National Herald, Elias Neofyrides, Macedonia TV, Dimitrios Tsakas, National Herald, Apostolos Zoupaniotis, Publisher, "Greek News", and Panikos Panayiotou, NGTV.

I was pleased to have celebrated the Hellenic language today with my many friends in the Greek-American community. I look forward to our continued friendship and collaboration on the many issues important to the United States and Greece.

## NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

### HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 5, 2008*

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD two newspaper articles illustrating the dire financial state the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is in at the present moment. The first article is published in the New York Daily News by Frank Lombardi entitled: Eye Rent Spike, Shutdowns. The article affirms that NYCHA plans a rent increase for about 40,000 residents in order to reduce their budget deficit. NYCHA also plans to close all 280 community, youth, and senior centers in order to save money.

The second article is published by the New York Times by Manny Fernandez entitled: Housing Cuts Are Proposed To Help Close Budget Gap. This article declares that NYCHA is making some of the steepest cuts in spending and personnel to reduce their shortfall in their operating budget.

Today, the agency is looking at a \$170 million deficit for 2008, which has halted more than 100 capital projects. But what is more staggering is that over 400,000 residents in 2,600 apartment buildings will be adversely affected by NYCHA's recent decisions. Many of these residents represent our nation's two most vulnerable demographics: senior citizens and youths. So eliminating all of the centers will result in losing many of the following programs that is essential to the growth, development, and progress for many living in public housing: community, educational and recreational programs; job readiness and training initiatives; day care and Head Start; sports, photography, painting, literacy classes and general education courses; computer training, arts and crafts, childcare feeding; and lunch, and senior companion initiatives.

We must ensure that tenants do not become helpless victims of the recent state of financial affairs. I encourage my colleagues to support enhancing resources that can mitigate the struggles many public housing agencies such as the New York City Public Housing Authority is facing right now.

[From the New York Daily News, May 30, 2008]

#### EYE RENT SPIKE, SHUTDOWNS

(By Frank Lombardi)

A brutal rent hike looms for 40,000 families living in subsidized city apartments as Housing Authority officials sprung a plan Thursday to close a gaping budget hole.

The Draconian move, which includes closing all 280 community, youth and senior centers, was spelled out at a City Council hearing on the authority's \$195.3 million deficit, which is also projected for the next four years. "This is real. I'm going to have to be able to manage within our means," said Authority Chairman Tino Hernandez after the hearing. "So unless there's some relief that comes from some level of government I'm going to have to move forward with these actions." They include:

A second rent hike for some 40,000 families whose earnings require them to pay higher rents. Most tenants of the authority's 181,000 apartments pay a fixed rent capped at one-third of their income. The higher earners were hit two years ago with a 10% to 40% hike depending on income and now face hikes of 5% to 15%, to raise \$45 million a year, beginning next year.

Closing all of the Housing Authority's more than 100 senior centers and 158 youth and community centers. That would cause the layoff or retirement of 1,500 workers—for annual savings of \$60 million.

Diverting \$75 million from the construction budget to cover operating expenses.

Selling or renting authority property to private developers for market-rent uses. Details are still being formulated.

The threatened actions will generate "outrage" among tenants, said Lisa Burriss, an organizer for the Public Housing Residents of the Lower East Side.

[From the New York Times, May 30, 2008]

#### HOUSING CUTS ARE PROPOSED TO HELP CLOSE BUDGET GAP

(By Manny Fernandez)

The chairman of the New York City Housing Authority painted a bleak financial picture of the agency at a City Council hearing on Thursday, saying that without increased government aid the authority would raise rents for some tenants and eliminate hundreds of community centers and resident programs.

The agency—the largest public housing authority in the United States, with 406,000 residents in 2,600 buildings—has made deep cuts in its spending and its work force in recent years to contend with ever-growing budget gaps.

But the steps outlined on Thursday by the agency's chairman, Tino Hernandez, and its general manager, Douglas Apple, were some of the most severe cutbacks the agency has proposed as it sought to close a \$195 million deficit in its operating budget this year. Toward the end of the housing officials' testimony before several committees, about two dozen tenant activists stood up in the Council chambers at City Hall and chanted, "Put residents first!" as they marched out.

Staffs from the two sides will meet in the coming days to begin discussing the authority's needs. Although the city and the state do not provide annual operating assistance to the authority, they have provided one-time allocations to help close shortfalls. Most recently, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the Council provided the agency with \$120 million in operating aid in 2006.

Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Apple said the rent increases would be similar to the ones they announced in 2006, when the Housing Authority raised the rents paid by its highest-income households. The new increases of 5 to 15 percent for those same tenants would generate an estimated \$35 million to \$45 million